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DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
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JOHN S. RENZA
DIRECTOR

EMPLOYMENT BULLETIN

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
EDWARD D. DI PRETE
GOVERNOR

VOLUME 39 FEBRUARY 1989 NO. 2

RHODE ISLAND EMPLOYMENT DECLINES SEASONALLY TO 448,700 IN JANUARY

Overall Rhode Island establishment employment fell in January, mainly the result of sharp seasonal decreases in the Trade, Services, Construction and Jewelry-Silverware sectors of the state's economy, reported John S. Renza, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Employment Security.

According to preliminary estimates prepared by the Department of Employment Security in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, Rhode Island employment totalled 448,700 in January. Although this figure represents a decrease of 15,700 jobs from the December level of 464,400, it is 4,300 above the January 1988 total of 444,400.

EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES REVISED

Published estimates for 1987 and 1988 have been revised to a first quarter 1988 benchmark. Current figures reflect data on new firms, expansion or contraction in existing firms not sampled, and also reflect changes in assigned industrial coding caused by product or service changes occurring in 1987-1988.

MANUFACTURING

Overall manufacturing jobs in Rhode Island declined by 2,100 in January to a level of 112,100. Furthermore, this figure represents a drop of 1,500 from the total of 113,600 reported in January 1988. In the Durable Goods category, the January employment figure of 75,500 was down 1,800 from the December level and showed a decrease of 1,300 from the year ago total. The current Nondurable Goods employment of 36,600 was 300 below the month earlier figure and declined 200 compared to the January 1988 level.

Within the Durable Goods producing sector, the most substantial monthly job reduction occurred in Jewelry-Silverware (-1,200), followed by additional declines in Primary Metals and the Miscellaneous

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RHODE ISLAND BEGINS NEW METHOD FOR COMPUTING UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Effective January 1, 1989, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics officially implemented a new method of calculating unemployment in the 39 less populous states, including Rhode Island. The new methodology is based on the use of statistical models, or estimating equations. Formerly the monthly rates in these 39 states were prepared through a formula that incorporated separately derived estimates of various segments of the unemployed. BLS believes that the new methodology will not only yield more accurate data but will improve the comparability of the estimates among all 50 states. All state unemployment data for the past 10 years has now been revised to reflect the new methodology.

Because the new BLS methodology still utilizes state-generated employment and unemployment insurance data which is not available until the middle of the following month, the unemployment rates for the 39 smaller states cannot be computed as early as the rates for the U.S. and the 11 largest states. These are derived solely from the Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS) and are usually available on the first Friday of the following month. The CPS is a monthly nationwide survey of some 56,000 households which gathers labor force related data for each household member age 16 or over.

RHODE ISLAND JOB SERVICE OFFICES

BRISTOL COUNTY, 470 Metacom Ave	245-9300
EAST PROVIDENCE, 877 Broadway	277-3546
NEWPORT COUNTY, 73 Valley Road	
Middletown	847-3680
PAWTUCKET, 109 Main St	722-7500
PROVIDENCE, 130 West Exchange St	
Jewelry	277-3553
Manufacturing & Construction	277-3556
Professional & Clerical	277-3584
Temporary Help	277-3559
WAKEFIELD, Oliver Stedman Gov't Center	
Tower Hill Road	789-9721
WARWICK, 50 Airport Road	737-9624
WESTERLY, 57 Spruce Street	596-2814
WEST WARWICK, 1330 Main St	828-6134
WOONSOCKET, 217 Pond St	762-9010

OTHER JOB SERVICE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

JOB BANK	277-3588
TJTC Information	277-3726
TJTC Job Orders	277-3726
Employer Relations Unit	277-3458
Jobs for Rhode Island Graduates	277-6813
CALL-A-TEEN	
Call your local Job Service Office	
Project STEADY	277-6813

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE ACTIVITIES

	Jan 1989	Dec 1988	Jan 1988
Total Placements	524	531	442
New Applications	3,124	2,865	2,443
New Openings Received	1,169	901	1,216

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY ACTIVITIES

	Jan 1989	Dec. 1988	% Change Dec 1988
Initial Claims	9,730	14,823	- 34.4
No. of Payments	64,465	38,488	+ 67.5
Amt. of Payment	$ 11,228,265	$ 6,494,166	+ 72.9
Exhaustions	940	720	+ 30.6

TEMPORARY DISABILITY INSURANCE ACTIVITIES

	Jan. 1989	Dec. 1988	Jan. 1988
Initial Claims	3,815	3,201	3,636
No. of Payments	27,039	27,566	21,568
Amt. of Payments	$ 4,699,351	$ 4,757,643	$ 3,525,075

RHODE ISLAND

Labor Force - Unemployment Estimates
(In thousands)

	January 1989	December 1988	January 1988
Civilian Labor Force	524.9	533.9	513.2
Unemployment	16.8	10.9	15.5
Rate (Unadjusted)	3.2	2.0	3.0
Seasonally Adjusted Rate	3.2	2.3	2.9

PROVIDENCE

Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area
Labor Force-Unemployment Estimates
(In thousands)

	December 1988	November 1988	December 1987
Civilian Labor Force	352.7	348.6	343.2
Unemployment	11.9	9.0	11.6
Rate (Unadjusted)	3.4	2.6	3.4

PAWTUCKET - WOONSOCKET - ATTLEBORO

Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area
Labor Force-Unemployment Estimates
(In thousands)

	December 1988	November 1988	December 1987
Civilian Labor Force	172.7	171.6	168.2
Unemployment	6.9	6.2	6.8
Rate (Unadjusted)	4.0	3.6	4.0

NEWPORT Labor Area

Labor Force-Unemployment Estimates

	December 1988	November 1988	December 1987
Civilian Labor Force	36,615	36,300	35,025
Unemployment	1,030	785	1,060
Rate (Unadjusted)	2.8	2.2	3.0

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INSURED UNEMPLOYED IN RHODE ISLAND NOVEMBER 14-18, 1988

Sex and Age	Number	Percent
Total	8,869	100.0
Men	4,507	50.8
Under 45	3,257	72.3
45 and Over	1,250	27.7
Women	4,362	49.2
Under 45	2,513	57.6
45 and Over	1,849	42.4
Industry Attachment		
Contract Construction	1,159	13.0
Manufacturing	3,191	36.0
Public Utilities	442	5.0
Wholesale and Retail	1,354	15.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	443	5.0
Service	1,511	17.0
All Other	769	8.7
Occupational Skills		
Prof., Tech. and Managerial	1,850	20.9
Clerical and Sales	1,902	21.4
Service	534	6.0
Fishery, Forestry & Rel. Occ.	104	1.2
Processing	299	3.4
Machine Trades	1,172	13.2
Bench Work	1,068	12.0
Structural Work	1,315	14.8
Miscellaneous	599	6.8
INA	26	0.3

TOTAL ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT IN RHODE ISLAND

	EMPLOYMENT IN THOUSANDS			NET CHANGE FROM	
	Jan 1989	Dec 1988	Jan 1988	Dec 1988	Jan 1988
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT*	448.7	464.4	444.4	- 15,700	+ 4,300
MANUFACTURING	112.1	114.2	113.6	- 2,100	- 1,500
NONMANUFACTURING	336.6	350.2	330.8	- 13,600	+ 5,800
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	18.8	21.8	17.6	- 3,000	+ 1,200
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	15.1	15.9	15.2	- 800	- 100
TRADE (Wholesale & Retail)	102.1	108.0	100.9	- 5,900	+ 1,200
FINANCE, INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE	26.4	26.5	26.3	- 100	+ 100
SERVICE (Miscellaneous)	113.7	117.4	111.6	- 3,700	+ 2,100
GOVERNMENT (Federal, State & Local)	60.5	60.6	59.2	- 100	+ 1,300

1989 Figures are PRELIMINARY. 1988 Figures are REVISED. Estimates are for Pay Period which includes the 12th of the month.

Compiled by THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY in cooperation with the U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

* Farmers, Self-employed, Domestic and Armed Services personnel are excluded.

**Labor Dispute

ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT, EARNINGS AND HOURS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN R.I.

	EMPLOYMENT IN THOUSANDS			Net Change From		PRODUCTION-WORKER AVERAGES Weekly Earnings		Weekly Hours		Hourly Earnings	
	Jan 1989	Dec 1988	Jan 1988	Dec 1988	Jan 1988	Jan 1989	Jan 1988	Jan 1989	Jan 1988	Jan 1989	Jan 1988
ALL MANUFACTURING	112.1	114.2	113.6	-2100	-1500	349.95	336.40	39.1	40.0	8.95	8.41
DURABLE GOODS	75.5	77.3	76.8	-1800	-1300	345.54	332.37	39.0	39.9	8.86	8.33
LUMBER/FURNITURE	3.0	3.0	3.1	0	- 100	416.45	401.17	39.7	40.4	10.49	9.93
STONE-CLAY-GLASS	1.7	1.8	1.6	- 100	+ 100	458.30	430.15	41.4	41.4	11.07	10.39
PRIMARY METALS	4.2	4.5	4.2 *	- 300	0	394.63	405.77	40.6	42.4	9.72	9.57
FABRICATED METALS	8.7	8.8	8.8	- 100	- 100	334.36	320.00	39.9	40.1	8.38	7.98
NONELECTRIC MACH	5.6	5.6	5.9	0	- 300	473.86	449.28	43.0	43.2	11.02	10.40
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY	11.4	11.4	11.8	0	- 400	330.06	307.93	39.2	40.2	8.42	7.66
TRANSPORTATION EQUIP.	9.4	9.3	9.1	+ 100	+ 300	462.44	458.43	39.9	41.3	11.59	11.10
INSTRUMENTS	4.8 *	4.8 *	4.8 *	0	0	360.91	336.61	38.6	40.9	9.35	8.23
JEWELRY-SILVERWARE	20.7	21.9	21.5	-1200	- 800	270.23	260.35	37.9	38.8	7.13	6.71
MISCELLANEOUS MFG.	6.0	6.2	6.0	- 200	0	281.43	245.25	35.4	34.3	7.95	7.15
NONDURABLE GOODS	36.6	36.9	36.8	- 300	- 200	357.50	344.57	39.2	40.3	9.12	8.55
FOOD-BEVERAGE	3.0	3.0	3.0	0	0	328.37	313.68	37.4	38.3	8.78	8.19
TEXTILES	10.0	9.9	10.2	+ 100	- 200	312.76	306.88	38.9	40.7	8.04	7.54
APPAREL	2.2	2.4	2.6	- 200	- 400	299.15	299.87	40.1	42.9	7.46	6.99
PAPER PRODUCTS	2.6	2.6	2.6	0	0	328.89	305.88	39.2	40.3	8.39	7.59
PRINTING-PUBLISHING	6.9	6.9	6.9	0	0	464.86	433.05	37.1	37.3	12.53	11.61
CHEMICAL PRODUCTS	3.4	3.5	3.3	- 100	+ 100	449.85	449.35	40.6	41.8	11.08	10.75
RUBBER PRODUCTS	1.3	1.4	1.2	- 100	+ 100	374.59	352.29	41.3	41.3	9.07	8.53
PLASTICS PRODUCTS	5.0	5.0	5.0	0	0	380.42	358.26	40.6	42.0	9.37	8.53
LEATHER PRODUCTS	2.2	2.2	2.0	0	+ 200	266.67	238.85	40.9	38.9	6.52	6.14

1988 Figures REVISED 1989 Figures are PRELIMINARY Estimates are for pay period which includes the 12th of the month.

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*Labor Dispute

RHODE ISLAND
EMPLOYMENT
BULLETIN

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
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BETHESDA MD 20814

WHENEVER YOU NEED WORKERS CONTACT RHODE ISLAND JOB SERVICE

Manufacturing segment of 300 and 200, respectively. In addition, smaller downturns of 100 each were registered in Stone-Clay-Glass and Fabricated Metals. The sole monthly increase in the Durable Goods sector was posted in Transportation Equipment (+100), while the remaining industries were unchanged from their December employment levels. On an annual basis, employment gains were recorded in Transportation Equipment (+300) and Stone-Clay-Glass (+100). Conversely, job declines were reported in Jewelry-Silverware (-800), Electrical Machinery (-400) and Nonelectrical Machinery (-300). Also down for the twelve month period were Lumber/Furniture and Fabricated Metals (-100 each). Employment in Primary Metals, Instruments and the Miscellaneous Manufacturing segment showed no change compared to a year ago.

Among the Nondurable Goods producing industries, a monthly upturn of 100 in Textile employment was more than offset by downturns in Apparel (-200), Chemical Products and Rubber Products (-100 each). Payroll levels in the remaining Nondurable Goods industries were unchanged from their December employment totals. Compared to a year ago, employment advances were apparent in Leather Products (+200), Chemical Products and Rubber Products (+100 each). In contrast, the number of jobs were down in Apparel (-400) and Textiles (-200), while employment in the four remaining Nondurable Goods industries was unchanged for the twelve month period.

NONMANUFACTURING

Total employment in Rhode Island's Nonmanufacturing sector fell by 13,600 from December to January, primarily due to seasonal reductions in Wholesale and Retail Trade, Services and Contract Construction. However, the January total of 336,600 was 5,800 jobs above the year earlier level of 330,800.

Wholesale and Retail Trade employment reflected reduced post-holiday activity, decreasing by 5,900 jobs last month to the current level of 102,100; nevertheless, this figure represents an annual gain of 1,200 workers. Another substantial monthly employment decline was reported in the Services category, which fell by 3,700 to 113,700. On an annual basis, however, the current total is up by 2,100. Contract Construction, at 18,800, also displayed a seasonal downturn (-3,000), but again, this segment was up 1,200 from a year ago. Although overall Government jobs posted a monthly decline of 100, the January employment total of 60,500 represents an annual gain of 1,300. Employment in Transportation and Public Utilities, at 15,100, registered a monthly decrease of 800 workers, while Finance Insurance and Real Estate, at 26,400, recorded a drop of 100 from December. Compared to a year ago, the former was down 100 and the latter advanced by 100.

HOURS AND EARNINGS

Average hourly earnings for Rhode Island's production workers advanced by 10 cents to $8.95 in mid-January; this represents a gain of 54 cents compared to one year ago. The average work week decreased by 0.2 of an hour in January to 39.1 hours, which was 0.9 of an hour less than the January 1988 work week. Average weekly earnings for Rhode Island's production workers in January amounted to $349.95, representing an increase of $2.14 from last month and a gain of $13.55 compared to the same month a year ago.

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